United Nations E/C.2/2008/2/Add.36

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 April 2008

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2008 resumed session
29 May-6 June 2008

Quadrennial reports for the period 2003-2006 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty	2
2.	International Social Security Association	5
3.	Life for Relief and Development	8
4.	Transnational Radical Party	11
5.	Women's Commission Research and Education Fund	14

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

08-29586 (E) 130508

1. International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty

(Special; 1987)

The International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty (IADRL) was founded in 1946 in order to protect, defend and promote freedom of thought, conscience, conviction and religion for everyone and everywhere.

The aims of the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty are:

- To stress the importance of the nature, extent and value of freedom in religious matters.
- To trace the historic development of the struggle to gain this freedom.
- To inform through presentation of original documents and trustworthy news.
- To seek objectivity by asking concerned persons to present their beliefs themselves.
- To help people to reach a better and mutual understanding so that they could more effectively cooperate in establishing justice and peace.

Through the years 2003 – 2006 the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty endeavored to accomplish these goals through multiple activities and efforts.

During the reporting period, we continued to concentrate our efforts in four directions which are vital to promote religious freedom:

1. To obtain the effective recognition of this right by the civilian and political authorities of the European States.
2. To obtain support and contribution regarding this action from the experts involved in the issues dealing with Church-State relations and the place of religion in the modern European society.
3. With their help, to promote with the civilian, political and religious authorities an in-depth reflection on the implications of religious liberty.
4. To contribute to a better understanding and implementation of this principle in denominational circles.

Publications

The Association publishes a yearly magazine *Conscience et liberté* in French and *Gewissen und Freiheit* in German dedicated to the questions of human rights in general and religious freedom in particular. The magazine is further translated and published by the national chapters of IADRL in Italy, Spain and Portugal. The content is translated and used in the publications of cooperating associations pursuing similar goals in the Czech Republic, Romania and Croatia.

2003 issue – main topic: "Human Rights – Religious Liberty and Security"

2004 issue - main topic: "New perspectives for religious Liberty in Latin America"

2005 issue – main topic: "Romania and Religious Freedom"

2006 issue – main topic: "Postmodernism and religious Freedom"

The magazines have circulation of about 6.000 copies of each issue and each linguistic version.

Besides that, the association publishes every year a promotional calendar.

AIDLR as a non-governmental organization is accredited by the United Nations and the Council of Europe

1. Participation in meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council

1) 17–28 March and 7-25 April, 2003 – Participation in the 59th session of the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland

2) 7–25 August 2003 – Participation in the meetings of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland

3) 25–29 March 2004 – Participation in the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland (15 March-23 April 2004)

4) 29 November - 1 December, 2006– Participation in the 3rd session of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland (29 November-8 December 2006)

2. Participation in meetings of the Council of Europe

1) 31 March–4 April 2003 – Participation in the meeting of the NGO's (Human Rights grouping) accredited to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France

2) 22–26 September 2003 – Participation in the meetings of the Liaison Committee of the NGOs accredited to the Council of Europe and to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg, France. The AIDLR has been granted the status of "participative NGO"

3) 20–22 and 26–30 March 2004 – Participation in the meetings of the Liaison Committee of NGOs accredited to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France

4) 11 April 2006– Participation in the meetings of the Liaison Committee of NGOs accredited to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France

5) 4 October 2006– Participation in the meetings of the Liaison Committee of NGOs accredited to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France

Seminars, symposiums, congresses, lectures, meetings

15–22 February 2003 – Lectures in Florence, Sienna, Milan and Rome, following the invitations issued by the State Faculties of Ecclesiastical Law of these cities

6–11 March 2003 – Preparation and session in Sofia (Bulgaria) of the International Symposium on Religious Liberty and Security

3–6 May 2003 – Lectures and participation in the International Symposium organized in Bucharest (Romania) on "Religious Liberty and Security"

22–24 May 2003 – Participation in the International Conference on Religious Rights in Southern Europe organized by the University of Aix-Marseille, France

12–15 September 2004 – Participation in the meetings on religious liberty and the State rights organized in Brussels (Palais du Heysel), Belgium, by the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

25 and 27 October 2004 – Lectures on "France and the United States after September 11, 2001": "Secular State and Religious Liberty: Myths and Realities", at the Faculty of Law of Lisbon, Portugal

5 June 2006– Participation in the meetings on religious liberty and lecture on the "Situation of Religious Freedom in Europe" at a colloquium organized at the University in Prague (Faculty of the Protestant Theology), Czech Republic

24-25 November 2006 – Participation in the 25th Anniversary Commemoration of the Adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion or Belief, Prague, Czech Republic

Meetings of experts

4 February 2003 – Meetings in Paris with French civil personalities, the president of the Protestant Federation of France, and professors of Law of French Universities

9–11 June 2003 – Participation in the AIDLR/ International Religious Liberation Association (IRLA) meetings of experts at the Faculty of Law of Louvain, Belgium

16–20 June 2004 – Participation and lectures during the AIDLR/IRLA meeting of experts at the Château de Klingenthal, France

12-16 November 2005 – Participation in the AIDLR/IRLA meetings of experts in Sigüenza, Spain

11-13 September 2006 – Participation in the AIDLR/IRLA meetings of experts at the University Paul Cezanne, Aix en Provence, France

2. International Social Security Association

(General; 1979)

The International Social Security Association (ISSA) is a non-profit international organization which essentially brings together institutions and administrative bodies dealing with one or more aspects of social security countries of the world, namely all forms of compulsory social protection which, by virtue of legislation or national practice, is an integral part of the social security system of these countries. The Association shares fully the ideas of justice and social progress laid down in the United Nations Charter.

Founded in 1927 the Association has become the main focal point for ideas and debate on social protection, providing a forum for the exchange of information and discussion and a unique centre for the collection and dissemination of research and information on social security. Today it addresses the many challenges facing social security, both in countries with well established social protection, and those embarking on new systems. The global nature of the ISSA is illustrated by its membership of 381 social security institutions from 152 countries.

Aims: Cooperate, at the international level, in the promotion and development of social security throughout the world, primarily through its technical and administrative improvement, in order to advance the social and economic conditions of the population on the basis of social justice. This overall objective defines three fundamental and complementary missions: (a) focal point for different countries can compare their experiences, exchange information and discuss respective problems; (b) worldwide centre for the collection and dissemination of information concerning social security developments, innovative experiences, the principal debates having an impact on its evolution, the results of research carried out of this field throughout the world; (c) a tool for the use of member organizations to enhance their cooperation and mutual assistance, to improve their administrative capacity.

Means of action: The principal means of action of the ISSA are the following: (a) organization of international and regional meetings and conferences; (b) collection and dissemination of information on social security arrangements throughout the world, particularly through international databases (Social Security Worldwide – SSW) and a publications programme; (c) promotion of research and surveys on social security issues and distribution of their results; (d) organization of training programmes for the personnel of social security organizations in various regions of the world and encouragement of technical assistance among member organizations; (e) cooperation with other international or regional organizations exercising an activity related to social security. For more detailed information, please consult the ISSA Website, http://www.issa.int.

During the reporting period, the ISSA contributed to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goal on poverty reduction. The ISSA Technical Commission on Family Allowances, in cooperation with the *Caisse national des allocations familiales* (CNAF), held the International Conference, titled: *When families and children live in poverty: Which policies should be adopted?* 19-20 June 2006, Paris, France. This Conference presented an update of the comparative

study (Latin America, Europe and Africa) on the impact, efficiency and effectiveness of family allowance programmes. It also mapped out research on the effects that family allowances, together with other social policies, can have on the battle against poverty.

Following up on the Madrid United Nations Conference (World Assembly on Ageing) of 2002, the ISSA organized and participated in different activities, including research, conferences, and publications on social security in a long-life society. In 2003, the ISSA published its contribution to the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, titled *Ageing and Social Security: Ten Key Issues* in Geneva. This paper identifies several issues relating to ageing and sustainable social security, including gender equality in old age pension schemes, negative effects of ageing populations/on health care provision and long-term care schemes. Special attention is given to the specific challenges of ageing populations for low-income and middle-income countries, many of which face rapid demographic change under adverse economic and social conditions.

The ISSA submitted its contribution to the Report of the Secretary-General on the Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, which was delivered at the 59th session of the UN General Assembly, 14 September 2004, New York, United States of America.

The ISSA participated in the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) 7th Global Conference, titled Global Ageing: Sustaining Development, 4-7 September 2004, Singapore. The Conference focused on the major issues including health, financial security and well being. The ISSA Secretary General, made his contribution, titled Ageing and Social Security: A Crisis or New Consensus?

The 28th ISSA General Assembly, 12-18 September 2004, Beijing, China. The ISSA triennial flagship event had provided a forum for international participants, which represented the governing agencies and NGOs, to discuss the major issues facing social security worldwide including the need for adequate benefits, universality of coverage, the administrative capacity to deliver benefits and services as expected; the need to ensure a sustainable social security system providing security in the future.

The ISSA Conference, *Towards sustainable social security systems*, 26- 28 November 2003, Limassol, Cyprus, provided a forum for the ISSA Technical Commissions dealing with branches of social security. This triennial ISSA Conference was the main forum for the Technical Commissions before the ISSA General Assembly in Beijing met in 2004. It tackled topics dealing with the administration of disability insurance programmes, conditions for implementation or reform of a work injury scheme, social security in a flexible labour market Information technology in health insurance, combating child poverty/social protection for single-parent families.

During the reporting period a number of the ISSA's regional activities dealt with social protection of migrant workers and the extension of social security coverage. The European Meeting on *Social protection of migrant labour and globalization*, in cooperation with the International Association of Pension and Social Funds (IAPSF) was held on 7-9 September 2005, Baku, Azerbaijan. The aim of the meeting was to analyze the available instruments which allow migrant workers to actually receive their benefits. Experts from international organizations (Council of Europe and International Labour Organization (ILO)) and from ISSA member organizations shared their experiences with the

participants and tried to bring answers to the problems the participants are facing in this area. Participants of the meeting set up a working group to elaborate a joint ISSA-IAPSF Declaration on *Social Protection of Migrant Labour and Globalization* to attract pubic and governments' attention to the need for a better protection of migrant workers in the context of globalization. The elaborated Declaration was adopted at the ISSA-APSF Meeting, held on 22 December 2005, in Moscow, the Russian Federation. The ISSA Regional Conference for the Americas on *Integration of social protection policies to extend coverage: The role of social security institutions*, held on 28 - 31 May 2006, Belize City, Belize, addressed, among other topics, issues of appropriate social security for migrant workers, including new strategies to extend health protection.

Cooperation with specialized agencies

During the reporting period in 2004, a joint ISSA/ILO Task Force was created to examine how the ILO and the ISSA can reinforce their long-standing partnership, enhance synergy and draw on their respective networks to meet today's challenges. The ISSA and the International Labour Organization, within the framework of the privileged relationships, mutually contributed to their respective agendas dealing with social security and occupational safety and health. The ISSA and the ILO jointly organized the XVII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, 18-22 September 2005, Orlando, the United States of America. The Congress emphasized the critical importance of safety and health at work in a globalized world.

The ISSA commenced their active cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2004. Both organizations took on the challenge of enhancing health promotion in social insurance systems, as both organizations value the potential of health promotion in preventing the onset and progression of disease and in reducing disability. As a first step, the WHO and the ISSA organized expert consultations jointly with Kela, the Finnish Social Insurance Institution and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Finnish Public Health Institute, 27-28 May 2004, Helsinki, Finland. The group work and conclusion of the meeting confirmed issues in the integration of health promotion in social insurance which are particularly relevant for the next steps in the WHO-ISSA initiative. The consultative meeting in Helsinki showed the importance of integrating health promotion in social insurance was highlighted and the need for further policy-related research emphasized. Based on the encouraging results of this consultative meeting, the WHO and the ISSA have launched a joint comparative research project analysing the health promotion activities undertaken by social insurance schemes in five countries, including Finland, Germany, Republic of Korea, Mexico and Thailand. For this project, national reports on social insurance and health promotion were prepared. A comparative analysis of the national experiences has been undertaken and a series of policy recommendations been developed. The results of the comparative study will be presented by WHO/ISSA at the ISSA World Social Security Forum to take place in 10 September 2007 in Moscow, Russian Federation, and will constitute the basis for the future WHO/ISSA joint promotion, knowledge transfer and capacity-building activities in the area of health promotion and prevention.

3. Life for Relief and Development

(Special; 1999)

PART I. Introduction

Life for Relief and Development (LRD) is a non-profit humanitarian relief organization dedicated to the alleviation of human suffering regardless of race, color, religion or cultural background. Since its inception in 1993, LRD has offered services and assistance to millions of people worldwide. Our programs are designed to address both social and economic deficiencies found within numerous societies that are often impacted by a lack of socio-economic development and limited resources at the grassroots level.

Expanded areas of activities: While its broad aims and objectives as well as the nature of its activities remain much as described in the submission in 2003, Life for Relief and Development has expanded their range in Iraq to work in all 18 governorates and opened new operations in Nazareth, Israel, Amman, Jordan and the International Humanitarian Aid City in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It has also strengthened significantly its cooperation with local grassroots organizations in all countries of operation. Furthermore, its advocacy role has been strengthened.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i.) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

a.) "International Conference of Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People" 4-5 September 2003, United Nations Headquarters, New York. Representative raised concerns on working toward resolution of the conflict, obstacles to peace and the role of civil society and humanitarian concerns for the Palestinian people.

b.) "2003 United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Conference" 8-10 September 2003, United Nations Headquarters, New York. Representative examined recent advances, best practices, effective partnerships, challenges and possible roles the international community and civil society can play in building strong civil societies and institutions through participation in working groups which determined conference outcomes.

c.) "Beijing + 10" 1-12 March 2005, United Nations Headquarters, New York. Representative attended workshops related to gender equality, protection of human rights of women, gender sensitive-budgeting and the critical role played by NGO's in awareness raising, advocacy, monitoring and programme delivery. Through participation representative was able to participate in conference outcomes.

d.) "UNHCR Executive Committee NGO Consultations" 26-29 September 2006 Geneva, Switzerland. Representative attended as a member of the United States of America delegation. The delegation met with UNHCR Country/Regional Director's to raise issues/concerns related to UNHCR's role and relationship with the international community in the provision of international protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees.

ii.) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at headquarters:

a.) Project in partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to create a database of all primary and secondary schools in all governorates of Iraq, July 2003 – December 2003

b.) Participatory school rehabilitation project to rehabilitate 5 schools in Missan governorate in partnership with UNICEF, Missan, Iraq, February 2004 to August 2004

c.) Rehabilitation of Educational Training Institute in partnership with UNICEF, Baghdad, Iraq, August 2004 to December 2004

d.) Participatory water rehabilitation of 5 water treatment plants and school sanitation and hygiene promotion project in partnership with UNICEF, Missan, Iraq, December 2004 to May 2006

e.) Community development water sanitation and hygiene promotion project in partnership with United Nations Habitat, Diwaniya, Iraq, January 2006 to December 2006

iii.) Initiatives undertaken in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals

Over the four year reporting period, the organization accomplished the following:

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Target 1. Halve the proportion of people whose income is less than $1 a day

Actions:

- Computer literacy training = 166,700 trained
- Sewing/tailoring training = 11,300 trained
- Micro-Credit Programs = 400 loans distributed

- Target 2. Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Actions:

- Children fed or given nutritional care = 1,106,342 fed
- Implementation of school kitchens = 8 kitchens
- Distribution of agricultural tools = 250 recipients

Goal 2. Achieve Universal Primary Education

- Target 3. Ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Actions:

- School materials and back packs delivered = 8,550 school bags
- Classrooms built or renovated = 70 classrooms
- Children registered in education centers = 11,150 registered
- Teachers trained = 1,238 trained
- Books and stationery delivered = 10,000 pieces

Goal 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower women

- Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education

Actions:

- Women's role in civil society training = 90 trained
- Women's role in the constitution training = 15,000 trained

Goal 4. Reduce Child Mortality

- Target 5. Reduce by two-thirds the under 5 mortality rate

Actions:

- Provision of medical books to medical colleges = 265,000 books
- Provision of medical supplies and medicines to hospitals and clinics = 6,173,100 assisted

Goal 5. Improve Maternal Health

- Target 6. Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

Actions:

- Provision of medical books to medical colleges = 265,000 books
- Provision of medical supplies and medicines to hospitals and clinics = 6,173,100 assisted

Goal 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

- Target 10. Halve, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Actions:

- Drinking water systems established = 10 water delivery systems constructed
- School sanitary services established = Latrines built in 8 schools
- Community based hygiene promotion and education = 250,000 recipients
- Integral community healthcare systems established = 10 clinics built

Goal 8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

- Target 18. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies

Actions:

- Computer literacy training = 166,700 trained
- Established internet cafes = 6 cafes

4. Transnational Radical Party

(General; 1995)

Introduction

The Transnational Radical Party (TRP) is the evolution of a Gandhian non-violent international political organization founded in Italy in 1955. The TRP is a membership-based organization to which anybody can be a member regardless of gender, race or philosophical and political orientation. Members include everyday citizens as well as elected officials, both from Parliaments and Governments of different countries and different political affiliations. All members pay their dues on an annual basis. The amount is set for 1% of the member's residence country's per capita GDP.

Since its affiliation with the Economic and Social Council in 1995, the TRP has participated in several United Nations fora and focused its United Nations-related work on the promotion and ascertainment of civil and political rights; support for all bilateral and multilateral actions to promote democracy worldwide; support of the activities of the United Nations ad hoc and special Tribunals and for the establishment of an International Criminal Court; the support of the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of a universal moratorium of capital executions; support for a reform of the United Nations Conventions on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances; support for use of Internet Technologies the world over to foster civil liberties and democracy; as well as support for freedom of scientific research and for a civilian conversion of military expenses and linguistic rights.

Participation in United Nations Conferences, Commissions, Committees and other meetings

For the four years, the TRP has sent delegations to the high level segments of the substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council. The TRP has sent delegations to the 59th , 60th and 61st sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and to the 1st and 2nd session of the UN Human Rights Council delivering statements on civil, political and economic, social and cultural rights; women's, children's as well as indigenous rights. In addition, the TRP has organized, in collaboration with other United Nations-affiliated NGOs, briefings for delegations as well as meetings with the press at the United Nations in Geneva on the issues of the role of the community of democracies in the human rights reform, religious freedom, freedom of scientific research, the moratorium of death penalty.

The TRP also participated in the 3rd Session of the Human Rights Council, 29 November to 8 December 2006 with a joint written statement on the disappearance of the Panchen Lama.

The TRP has sent delegations to the 55th and 56th sessions of the Sub-Commission on Human Rights, delivering statements on racial discrimination, economic social, cultural and indigenous rights as well as administration of justice. The TRP has organized briefings for delegations as well as meetings with the press at the United Nations in Geneva.

The TRP has sent delegations to the 46th, 47th, 48th and 49th sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs delivering statements on treatment for addicts, drug-related prison sentences, supply reduction, and to introduce licensed opium production in Afghanistan for pharmaceutical painkillers. In addition a delegation attended the 2003 Ministerial Segment of the Commission participating in the activities organized by the Vienna NGO Committee on Alcohol and Substance Abuse at the United Nations in Vienna.

The TRP has sent delegations to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 at the United Nations Headquarter in New York, participating in several interacting sessions.

The TRP has sent delegations to the 56th, 57th, 58th and 59th Annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference at the United Nations Headquarter in New York.

From 10 to 12 December 2003, the TRP has sent delegates to the Preparatory Committee for the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and its inter-sessional meetings from 15 to 18 July 2003 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. TRP's position papers have been formally submitted to the WSIS and can be retrieved at the Summit's site http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/03/wsispc3/c/S03-WSISPC3-C-0045!!PDF-E.pdf. The TRP sent a delegation to the Summit in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, where, together with the World Federalist Movement, it organized a briefing on "Democracy and the Digital Divide".

From September 8 to 12, 2003, the TRP sent a delegation to the United Nations Development Programme 5th International Conference of New or Restored Democracies held in Mongolia and to its Civil Society Forum. A TRP member was accredited by the Italian Government to the Conference as the NGO person on the Italian delegation.

The TRP participated in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in two phases: the first one in Geneva, hosted by the Government of Switzerland from 10 to 12 December 2003, and the second one in Tunis hosted by the Government of Tunisia, from 16 to 18 November 2005, where it organized a briefing entitled "P2P File-Sharing, Digital Rights, and e-Democracy" to stress the importance guaranteeing freedom of expression and communication through the Internet.

In 10-21 May 2004 and 15-26 May 2006, the TRP has sent a delegation to the 3rd and 5th Sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York and organized a side event with organizations affiliated with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

In March 2005, the TRP sent a delegation to the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York (28 February-11 March 2005) and held meetings with its members.

Relations with other non-governmental organizations

Over the years, the TRP has participated in the activities of several NGO Committees and coalitions such as the NGO Committee on Alcohol and Substance Abuse both in New York and Vienna, the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court, and the NGO Coalition for an International Auxiliary Language, which it co-founded and the NGO Human Rights Committee in New York. From 2003 to 2006 the TRP continued to be part of a Steering group of NGOs that promotes activities concerning the reform of the United Nations Human Rights system. For eight years the TRP has been a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organization in Consultative Status (CONGO).

In June 2006, the TRP, jointly with the organization Hands Off Cain, launched the campaign "Hands off Saddam" with the goal of a suspension of the execution of Saddam Hussein. A campaign endorsed by dozens of Nobel Laureates, hundreds of parliamentarians and supported by public opinion worldwide.

Other international fora

A delegation of the TRP has participated in the Third Ministerial Meeting of Community of Democracies (COD) in Santiago, Chile from April 28th to April 30th 2005. The TRP was part of a group of leaders of human rights and pro-democracy organizations that issued a call for action to the newly created United Nations Democracy Caucus. The Caucus was mandated by the Community of Democracies' (COD) process, a global coalition of over 100 democratic and democratizing nations committed to the promotion and strengthening of democracy and human rights. The group appealed in a letter to the foreign ministers of the Convening Group countries of the COD to ensure that the

Democracy Caucus would have taken a lead role in Geneva to censuring some of the world's worst human rights violations. The TRP has participated in sessions of the Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in New York and the Hague.

The TRP maintains a web site at www.radicalparty.org where press releases, action alerts as well as a variety of United Nations-related position papers can be found. It also publishes a free of charge electronic newsletter English, French, Spanish, Italian and Esperanto called Radical Fax, which contains updates on its United Nations-related activities.

Promotion of the United Nations

In addition to participating in ad hoc meetings concerning the role and possible developments of the United Nations system, several TRP members have issued public statements and published commentaries in major newspapers on the subject of the United Nations. In particular, a worldwide mobilization was launched in January 2003, to gather support for a non-violent resolution of the Iraqi crisis and to urge a prominent role of the United Nations in the nation building process of that country. Thousands of citizens from over 160 countries endorsed the idea as well as some 600 Parliamentarians from a dozen countries.

Also, in 2006, the TRP, jointly with Hands Off Cain, re-launched its campaign to promote the adoption by the United Nations of a resolution to call on United Nations member states to adopt a moratorium on capital executions, focusing on the leadership role that the United Nations can play in the advancement of international law and human rights.

5. Women's Commission Research and Education Fund

(Special; 1999)

Part I. Introduction

National Association of Women's Commissions (NACW) is the national advocate for government commissions for women which holds a unique and positive position for women's equity and justice and touches millions of women, playing a significant role in national policy and legislative development. NACW is governed by a Board of Directors composed of an Executive Committee which includes the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, and fourteen Directors elected across the United States with only one Director from a state. The National Office is located within the Montgomery County Commission for Women in Rockville, Maryland. NACW holds an annual membership convention to elect board members and officers and to adopt resolutions and actions for the coming year.

Part II: Contribution to the work of the United Nations, 2003-2006:

i. Participation in United Nations Meetings and Conferences:

1. Delegates from NACW attended the 50th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 27 February -10 March 2006, United Nations Headquarters, New York. NACW was a signatory to a letter from NGOs worldwide urging the appointment of a woman as the next Secretary General of the United Nations.

Member Commissions have participated throughout the United States of America in mobilizing women to put pressure on elected officials for the ratification of CEDAW and its optional protocol.

ii. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

1. Knowing that women, especially older women, make up the disproportionate share of the poor and the elderly sick in the United States of America, NACW has undertaken two memberwide initiatives during the period reported: **Women's Health and Women's Financial Literacy**.

    a. In partnership with Procter & Gamble Corporation, NACW has created a toolkit for member Commissions to educate their communities on osteoporosis. The Healthy BONES toolkit includes information on the disease, its prevention, and free bone density checks.

    b. In partnership with the United States of America Department of Labor Women's Bureau, NACW member Commissions encourage constituents to participate in WI$E-UP, a free on-line financial education program and curriculum to help improve women's personal money management skills.

    c. In partnership with the Heinz Family Philanthropies and Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER), NACW member Commissions are encouraging women to become knowledgeable about financial issues that impact them by accessing an online book, available free of charge, to women and their families.

2. Other initiatives undertaking by NACW in line with MDGs CEDAW, and United Nations principles include endorsing United States legislation related to Women's Civil and Human Rights; Economic Equity; Health; Violence Against Women; and Work and Family.